

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 07869 110900Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 CU-04 HA-05 BIB-01 IO-13
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R 110606Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3438
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, OCON
SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE -- SWISS VIEWS ON SMALLER SCALE MANEUVERS

FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/SOV FROM USDEL CSCE

REF: BELGRADE 7708

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, SWISS REP, SPEAKING IN BASKET I CBMS
SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODY NOVEMBER 7, EXPLAINED HIS GOVERNMENT'S
POLICY ON REPORTING SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS. FOLLOWING IS
SUMMARY.

2. SWITZERLAND REPORTS ONLY MAJOR MANEUVERS. FOR PURPOSES
OF FINAL ACT MAJOR MANEUVERS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THOSE WHICH
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INVOLVE 25,000 TROOPS AND ABOVE OR INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS
OF AIRBORNE/AMPHIBIOUS TROOPS. SWITZERLAND DOES NOT REPORT
ITS SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS BECAUSE THEIR FREQUENCY IS
TOO GREAT (MAY AROUSE CONCERN OF NEIGHBORS) AND MOST ARE NEAR
THE BORDERS.

3. SWISS CONCEPT OF DEFENSE - ARMED NEUTRALITY - STEMS FROM

YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE. THEY BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE POWER OF DEFENSE - MAIN FORTRESSES, READY LOGISTICS, RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE MOBILE DIVISIONS, AND FREQUENT DRILLS AND EXERCISES. SWISS BELIEVE IN THEIR CAPABILITY TO DEFEND THEIR TERRITORY FROM INVASION AND TO DENY ITS USE BY ONE FOREIGN ARMY SEEKING TO OUTFLANK ANOTHER.

4. SWISS COULD PERHAPS CONSIDER REPORTING THRESHOLD OF 18,000, AS THEY PREVIOUSLY DID IN GENEVA. HOWEVER, SELECTIVITY IN REPORTING SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS IS UNACCEPTABLE - THE REPORTING THRESHOLD MUST BE FIRM. END SUMMARY

5. DELEGATE REPORTED SWITZERLAND CONDUCTED THREE SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS IN 1976 AT TROOP LEVELS OF 15,000, 18,500 AND 23,000. HE PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXERCISES (TIME, NATURE OF EXERCISE, TYPE OF UNITS WITH SOME DESIGNATIONS, AND NUMBERS AND TYPES OF VEHICLES).

6. NORWEGIAN REP WARMLY PRAISED SWISS REP FOR MAKING PUBLIC SWISS MILITARY THINKING AND PHILOSOPHY BUT ASKED OTHER DELEGATIONS TO RECOGNIZE THAT SWITZERLAND'S SITUATION IS UNIQUE.

7. COMMENT: SWISS PREFERENCE FOR FIXED REPORTING THRESHOLD FOR SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS IS MORE CONSISTENT WITH ALLIED PROPOSAL THAN WITH THAT OF THE NNAS (OF WHICH SWITZERLAND IS A SPONSOR), BUT SPECIFIC THRESHOLD PROPOSED BY ALLIES (10,000) CONFIDENTIAL

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IS PROBABLY SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN SWISS COULD ACCEPT.
GOLDBERG

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NNN

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